(b) what is the ratio as at present;

(c) whether there is any shortfall, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed by Government to rectify the balance ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) : The Central Government has not prescribed any reservation for minorities in the Central Para Military Forces. However, special efforts are made to ensure that eligible candidates from minority communities are made aware of the employment opportunities and recruitments in these forces.

Fencing on Border of J&K

†*373. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for fencing the 256 Kilometer long international border of Jammu and Kashmir to check the terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the estimated amount likely to be incurred on this task; and

(d) the time by when this work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) : The Government have recently taken a decision for adopting a multi-modal approach for erecting an obstacle system on the International Border in Jammu sector to check infiltration and smuggling of weapons/explosives etc.

The project is expected to be completed in about one and a half year's time, at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 23.01 crores.

Investment under IRDP

*374. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what was the average level of investment fixed by the Central Government under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) for the period from 1st April to 31st December, 1998; and

(b) what factors are taken into consideration by the Central Government while fixing the average level of investments under IRDP ?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) The average level of investment determined by the Central Government under IRDP for the financial year, 1998-99 was Rs. 20,000 per family. The factors taken into consideration in fixing the average level of investment per family include past performance of the programme, subsidy-credit ratio, availability of funds and cost escalation.

Criminal lunatics Languishing in jails

*375. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the observations of the Supreme Court of India, as reported in the Statesman of February 7, 2000 under the caption "Branded a criminal lunatics for 38 years";

(b) whether Government have made or have undertaken any exercise to identify the so called criminal lunatics languishing and near perishing in different jails in the country without trial for over ten years;

(c) if so, the number and details of persons so languishing, and how many of them are women; and

(d) the steps taken to give them justice ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes Sir. According to information received from the State Government of West Bengal, the prisoner referred to in the news item was of unsound mind and was detained in jail as safe custody in pursuance of Court's orders and was kept under medical treatment. He was transferred to Antaragram Psychiatric Centre on 30-4-96 for medical treatment. On 20-1-2000, he was released from jail and shifted to the Old Age Home of Missionaries of Charity at Kanchrapara, near Calcutta, in pursuance of the orders of the Supreme Court of India.

(b) and (c) 'Prisons' is a State subject as per the Constitution of India. Prison administration is, as such, primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, available information on lunatics in jails is enclosed statement. (*See* below)

(d) Both Government and Judiciary are concerned with overcrowding in jails which is primarily due to the presence of a large number of undertrial prisoners.